

# The Sun

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### The Wilson-Cox League Appeals to Maine and Gets a Gruesome Answer.

In estimating the significance of the stupendous Republican victory in Maine one outstanding fact ought to be kept in mind: Since the fall of 1918, when President Wilson got his answer to his appeal to the country for a vote of confidence in his policy, his administration and his then dimly developed designs of internationalism, there has been no occasion when the result of a State election was so clearly and directly a verdict upon Wilsonism as that of Monday.

For the single issue in the Maine campaign has been Wilsonism; Wilson autocracy, Democratic inefficiency in the management of governmental affairs by Wilson and his self-chosen subordinates, the Wilson Covenant and League of Nations. It is idle for newspapers like our neighbor the *World* to extenuate by alleging a defective presentation of the Wilson side. A canvass in which two members of Mr. Wilson's Cabinet, one of them his son-in-law, were participants, and in which the Democratic candidate for Vice-President and the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee devoted their oratorical powers almost exclusively to the defence of the Covenant, can scarcely be said to be non-representative in character or inadequate in personnel. From beginning to end the President's autocratic methods, and more than all, his proposal to merge American sovereignty in an alien supergovernment were on trial before the Maine voters—particularly the woman voters—for approval or condemnation. There was no other question up.

In all the history of American politics there is little that is so variously impressive as the answer from Maine which thus links with the very beginning of Wilsonism the beginning of its end. The mere numerical result is so phenomenal as to tax the vocabulary of election comment for the right descriptive words. It is more than an "indication of the trend of public sentiment regarding the Wilson League of Nations"; it is a dour turning of the thumbs that decree death to that contrivance of delusion, vanity and ambition. It is more than a landslide; it is an avalanche. It is more than a manifestation of local feminine intelligence which is able to see the falsehood of the claim that the Wilson League means peace; it is a promise of what intelligent women everywhere in the Union will say when they are told that they must vote for League supergovernment if they want to keep the world at peace and their sons and brothers and husbands out of foreign wars concerning only alien interests. Wonder grows as we contemplate the dimensions and far reaching significance of the Maine vote against Wilsonism.

The great and solemn referendum demanded by the Democratic and Internationalist President of the United States has begun to yield returns. The *Sun* and *New York Herald* rejoice at the character of the reply Maine sends to the White House and at the volume and intensity of its utterance; and our satisfaction will be perfect if the effect of the splendid Dringo example is not to occasion overconfidence and relaxation of effort for HARRING and COOLIDGE in their quarter but to inspire every Republican State to try to do on November 2 as well or even better than Maine did on Monday.

### Chile's Disputed Election.

No decision has yet been reached in regard to Chile's disputed Presidential election. There are various conflicting claims to be disposed of. Time is required to make a careful examination of the evidence presented. In the method which is being followed to adjust these claims the traditional stability of Chilean institutions is admirably revealed.

Reference was made in *THE SUN* and *NEW YORK HERALD* some days ago to the appointment in Chile of a body known as the court of honor, composed of men of unimpeachable character and acceptable to all factions, which was to inquire into the credentials of the respective electors of the two candidates, ALEXANDER BARRIOS BORGOSO. In calling attention to the fact that such a procedure was radically different from the practice often followed in Latin America of appealing to force to decide election disputes, it was erroneously stated that this form of political arbitration was also an innovation in Chile. As a matter of fact, the same spirit of prudence and conservatism that is now being exhibited led Chile to adopt a similar expedient as early as 1866, when there was a close Presidential race between REYES and ECHAZARRIA. That contest is of interest in view of the present situation.

In the election of 1866 REYES received on the face of the returns a majority of the electoral votes. The court of honor reported unfavorably on regard to certain electors, however, and Congress elected ECHAZARRIA President. The entire country respected the decision, based as it was on the previous finding of the court of honor. It is evident that only in a country where there is a high degree of civic culture will such a decision be accepted as final.

A similar tribunal is now passing on the merits of the ALEXANDER-BARRIOS BORGOSO controversy. The proceedings have been delayed by the death of one of the members of the court, but a decision is expected within a few days. With this opinion as a guide Congress will then proceed to elect a President. No matter which man wins no fears should be entertained as to Chile's future, for political passions, however highly excited, are subordinated to patriotic zeal for the welfare of the republic.

to promote the efficiency of submarine warfare for defensive purposes. These branches of oceanography should receive fresh and continual attention from naval officers of a scientific turn of mind in our own service as well as that of Great Britain.

The varied aspects of oceanography and its claims upon human interest are an eminently practical science as illustrated by the announcement made while the British Association was in session at Cardiff that there is danger of the ocean breaking through the Isle of Wight and making two islands in place of the one whose name is known to all mariners.

This addition to Belgium's population will be about 75,000, which apparently she will have no difficulty in assimilating. It will bring, too, a productive agricultural region, two interesting old towns with medieval settings and the picturesque highland of southern Malmédy, full of wonderful, fully beautiful scenery. But of far greater importance to little Belgium, it will bring a rich wooded area, which, as a Belgian official said, will make up for forests cut away and destroyed by the Germans during the world war.

**Oceanography.**  
 The famous British Association for the Advancement of Science has just held its meeting for 1920 at Cardiff, in Wales, under the presidency of WILLIAM AMORY HENMAN, F. R. S., professor of natural history in the University of Liverpool. In the presidential address on these occasions it is customary for the speaker to discuss whatever he deems most worthy of note in the recent progress of his own particular science. For more than twenty-five years Professor HENMAN has devoted himself specially to the study of the ocean and its phenomena; and it was only natural therefore that he should make oceanography the principal theme of his Cardiff address.

The term oceanography was not known to men of science when the British Association was organized through the efforts of Sir DAVID BREWSTER in 1831. Its adoption as a name for the sciences of the ocean was largely due to the suggestion and influence of the naturalists of the Challenger expedition, which spent four years (1872-1876) in a scientific exploration of the waters of the globe. Of these naturalists the best known in this country was the late Sir JAMES CLARKE MURRAY of Edinburgh, who frequently visited Canada and the United States and received an honorary degree in science from Harvard University. The only survivor is Mr. J. Y. BUCHANAN, F. R. S., the chemist and physicist to the expedition, who has recently published through the Cambridge University Press a series of extremely valuable and interesting papers on his deep sea investigations conducted from the decks of the Challenger and vessels succeeding it.

The Italians wanted to call the new science of the sea *thalassography*, from the Greek *thalassa*, the sea; but the term oceanography has met with the most favor and now seems certain to prevail.

Our present knowledge of the great depths of the ocean dates from the time of the British Challenger expedition, similar explorations having been undertaken about the same time by Germany and the United States, although on a much smaller scale. A depth of more than five miles was discovered in the Pacific by the United States steamer *Tuscarora*, under command of Captain, afterward Admiral, BELKNAP, whose son, Captain R. R. BELKNAP, distinguished himself greatly in the late war by laying down and taking up the thousands of floating mines meant to keep the German fleet out of the North Sea.

The maximum depth discovered anywhere in the ocean up to the present time was subsequently measured by another vessel of the United States, the *Nero*, also in the Pacific, in the vicinity of the Marianas or Ladrones Islands. This group lies about half way between Japan and New Guinea, and the depth is 5,293 fathoms. All the lower areas of the floor of the ocean are now known to oceanographers as deeps. They have been classified according to their depths and many of them bear the names of distinguished surveyors of the sea. For example, the Bartlett Deep, near the West Indies, is named after the late Admiral JOHN R. BARTLETT of Rhode Island, who was for many years the Hydrographer of the United States Navy. The island of Guam, which is governed by a Captain in our navy very much as he would control a ship of war, is situated near the *Nero* Deep, already mentioned.

Dr. HENMAN, the president of the British Association this year, being a naturalist, has given most attention to the plants and animals of the ocean, and particularly to deep sea fishes. In his presidential address he emphasized the importance of the place fishery in the North Sea. The European place is a flounder-like fish, which is caught in enormous numbers by steam trawlers from England and Denmark. The annual catch is estimated by Professor HENMAN at 500,000,000 of adult plaice. In order that this notable source of food supply shall not be diminished by the intensive methods of modern fishing he recommends a more careful and complete study of the marine organisms upon which the plaice feeds, in order that these forms of ocean life may not suffer extinction. It you want to preserve an animal you must preserve the food necessary for its existence.

The further investigation of ocean currents, both on and under the surface, and the further study of the optical phenomena of sea water have been rendered imperatively necessary

to promote the efficiency of submarine warfare for defensive purposes. These branches of oceanography should receive fresh and continual attention from naval officers of a scientific turn of mind in our own service as well as that of Great Britain.

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### CLASS B IN THE ARMY.

**A Defence of the New Plan for the Retirement of Officers.**  
 TO THE *SUN* AND *NEW YORK HERALD*:  
 In replying to the letter you published from "An Army Woman" regarding the "Class B" rule, which places officers of long and useful service on the list of "undesirables," it might be well first to outline the rule referred to, which constitutes section 24 of the army reorganization law of 1919.

It is provided that annually all officers of the army shall be arranged in two classes: Class A, consisting of officers who should be retained in the service, and Class B, of officers who should be finally classified in Class B until he shall have had opportunity to appear before a court of inquiry, where he shall have a full copy of all records on which the proposed classification is based and may present testimony in his own behalf. The finding of such court receives final consideration from a board of not less than five general officers and is subject to review by the President.

When an officer is finally placed in Class B, unless his classification is due to his own neglect, misconduct or habits he is retired with pay at the rate of 24 per cent of his active pay multiplied by the number of completed years of service if ten or more. If he has served less than ten years he is honorably discharged with one year's pay in full of the Government's obligation to him.

These provisions seem wise and merely introduce into the military service a certain element of competition never in much greater degree in all civil pursuits. There is no reason why applicants are not informed of all but only two or three of the vacant commissions in the Regular Army, and it would be impossible to attract qualified men to army careers if it were not for this or some similar modification of the strict seniority system under which length of service alone regulated preferment.

It would be manifestly unfair to the service and to individuals if able and efficient officers should be denied by law any opportunity of advancement except in their due turns after the automatic promotion of all officers of longer service and purely negative virtue. Briefly, an officer must now do more to hold his position than merely avoid court-martial for an offense involving dismissal. Who can object to this?

"An Army Woman" will be interested to know that section 40 of the law above referred to provides that in peacetime every officer shall serve with troops for at least one year in every period of five consecutive years. This comes fairly close to her four year suggestion. The thief to be most clearly borne in mind in this matter is that the army must be administered for the good of the nation and the service as a whole, not for the good of individual officers.

G. EVANS HILL, JR.  
 WEST ORANGE, N. J., September 14.

### IS THIS HISTORY?

**A Certain Eminent "H. W." Comes to Aaron Burr's Defence.**  
 TO THE *SUN* AND *NEW YORK HERALD*:  
 You seem to have it in for Aaron Burr. But why should you couple him with Benedict Arnold? Burr was not a traitor—most even constructively a traitor, though Jefferson tried to make him so while Arnold was a vulgar scoundrel who sold himself for a price.

If after the slip up of the Mexican filibustering scheme Burr had lived like a gentleman he would be written down merely as a precursor of Houston. Burr started thirty years too soon. A man of extraordinary talents, he was at bottom a low, few fellow who sank under his misadventures and went to the dogs.

Get your history straight, my son, get your history straight, and maybe you won't go so far wrong in your politics.  
 NEW YORK, September 14. H. W.

### WAR SAVINGS STAMPS.

**They Bring a Higher Return Than Postal Savings and Are Safe.**  
 TO THE *SUN* AND *NEW YORK HERALD*:  
 Much has been said of late about postal savings extensions as a means of encouraging thrift, but how about that other opportunity offered by Uncle Sam, the War Savings Stamp?

These stamps furnish exactly the inducement to save. They encourage the thrift habit. They pay holders 4 per cent. interest and are absolutely safe. They are not subject to manipulation.

There is only one way for War Savings Stamps to go, and that is up. One is always assured that each month they will be sold at a profit, and the holder will never lose a cent. One need never sell them at a loss. They are absolutely a splendid investment. Yet comparatively little is known of them, though they can be purchased at all the postal stations and banks.

GEORGE L. SCOTT.  
 NEW YORK, September 14.

### Scotch Snuff for Hay Fever.

TO THE *SUN* AND *NEW YORK HERALD*:  
 A simple and effective cure for hay fever is Scotch snuff. I tried it on the recommendation of a friend and was cured. Others have tried it with like success. It never fails. MARION F. ANDERSON.  
 STONINGTON, CONN., September 14.

### VOTING IN THE SOUTH.

**South Carolina's Suppressed Vote.**  
 TO THE *SUN* AND *NEW YORK HERALD*:  
 If it is wrong for some men to vote by proxy it is good for other men to suppress votes?

I am aware that Southerners argue that votes are not suppressed in the South, but let any man try to get a full vote out on election day in November and now how quickly he dies or leaves the State.

Out of 60,000 persons of voting age in our State Mr. Cox cannot possibly get the vote of 75,000. The other 325,000 for various reasons will not vote. Watch our returns and see if I am a false prophet.

Verily we need the North to help us to have ourselves that good government may not perish.

Some time ago I was talking with several men from different parts of our State. A carpenter from the centre of the State said: "Locally we are Democrats but nationally we are Republicans."

A legislator from the western part said: "Wilson not only ruined the United States but he ruined Europe also."

A lawyer from the northern part of the State did not hesitate to say: "The Democrats did not have sense enough to permit a school in the former Representative Union, New York State, to be run by a man who had been convicted of a crime."

Mr. Palmer told the delegation which presented the resolution adopted by the American Federation of Labor, and former Representative Union, New York State, that he would inform the President what they had said, but further than that he could do nothing.

"You propose a general amnesty," Mr. Palmer said. "Now I ask what and how do you interpret that? Is it by a general proclamation, and if so how will you differentiate the so-called political prisoners?"

"My judgment is that it would require a proclamation, by the President dealing with every individual case. This, I suggest, is exactly what we are now doing."

"I recognize some of the war legislation to which you object as being necessary only under the exigency of war," I have advised the repeal of the espionage act, and I have seen to it that no prosecutions under its provisions have been instituted since the armistice."

The delegation was told that thus far 150 cases of espionage, small and of varied importance, have been acted on by the department, and have received favorable consideration since the armistice. Some of these, he said, resulted in parole in part or in full, and some in commutation of sentences.

Replying to statements by Mr. Gompers that other countries had released all political prisoners, Mr. Palmer said that many who actually suffered punishment under war time laws in the United States were infinitesimally small, while in some parts of Europe they also were in jail for merely disagreeing with the Government and expressing that disagreement.

"Our courts," he continued, "have sent few persons to prison under the war time laws who were not guilty of some overt act. That is not to mention the proposition of a general amnesty."

Mr. London's discussion of the effects of the espionage act brought in the name of Eugene V. Debs. He called Debs a "victim of martial law," and said he believed the Socialist Presidential candidate was "a man of intensely noble qualities, who would never be guilty of betraying his country."

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### ABANDONED REFUSED.

**DEBS AND DISLOYAL**  
**Palmer Tells Gompers Cases of Political Offenders Will Be Considered Separately.**  
**PREDICTS MANY RELEASES**

**Representative London Brings Up Case of Debs as Victim of War Legislation.**  
 WASHINGTON, Sept. 14.—Labor leaders asking general amnesty for political prisoners were told today by Attorney-General Palmer that the Government would continue its policy of "considering the cases individually."

Replying to the appeals of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and former Representative Union, New York State, that he would inform the President what they had said, but further than that he could do nothing.

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### THE SUN

THE *SUN* was founded by Ben. Day in 1833; THE *NEW YORK HERALD* was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. THE *SUN* passed in the hands of Charles D. Bennett, who became the property of Frank A. Murphy in 1916. THE *NEW YORK HERALD* remained the sole property of a founder until his death in 1915, when it was sold to the *SUN*. THE *HERALD* became the property of Frank A. Murphy in 1920.

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